

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR WESTERN WISCONSIN COUNTIES JULY 2003



La Crosse Metro Rate Down, State & National Rates Increase

June Local Labor Scene

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the **La Crosse Metropolitan Area** declined 0.1 of a percentage point, resting at 3.8 percent in June. The 3.8 percent figure is 0.2 percentage points lower than the four percent rate recorded in June 2002. The statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was up 0.2 percentage points in June at 5.6 percent, and up 0.3 percentage points from the 5.3 percent recorded statewide in June 2002.

All eight Western Counties experienced increasing unadjusted unemployment rates in June, joining the 66 of Wisconsin's 72 counties that had higher unadjusted unemployment rates in June than in May. June is a vibrant month with respect to the labor force and characteristically shows many new entrants into the labor force. These new entrants include high school and college students, recent graduates from educational institutions, and persons seeking seasonal summer employment. This increased activity shows more employed and will usually show more individuals unemployed, as well, compared to May. It is usual

and typical in Wisconsin that local labor markets can not absorb all the new entrants to the labor market in one month (June).

Statewide Notes

Wisconsin's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated at 5.6 percent in June, up 0.2 percentage points higher than May's rate of 5.4 percent.

Total non-farm wage and salary employment in Wisconsin

increased by 30,800 jobs over the month to a total of 2,828,900 jobs. Leading the gaining industries were 10,600 more jobs in the leisure and hospitality sector, which includes employment in food and accommodation services and in arts, entertainment, and recreation.

Annual growth in jobs were found in services-producing industries as the goods producing sectors of construction and manufacturing continue to show an annual employment decrease.

National Notes

Average weekly earnings of America's 100.4 million full-time wage and salary workers were \$616 in the second quarter of 2003, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported this month.

This was 1.8 percent higher than a year earlier, compared with a gain of 2.2 percent in the Consumer Price Index over the same period.

The 2001 recession, the nation's first downturn in ten years, officially ended in November 2001, only eight months after it had begun, the National Bu-

reau of Economic Research recently declared. The National Bureau of Economic Research is a group of academic economists which is the recognized arbiter of when recessions begin and end in the United States.

The national economy has been expanding for six quarters now, but actual results have been mixed. The economy grew at a 1.4 percent annual rate the first quarter of 2003, unemployment hit 6.4 percent in June (the highest national rate since April 1994), and the number of people collecting jobless benefits hit a 20 year high during June 2003.

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)			
	La Crosse * MSA	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
Current month: June 2003			
Civilian Labor Force	76,500	3,099.5	147,096
Employment	73,500	2,926.8	137,738
Unemployment	2,900	172.6	9,358
Unemployment rate	3.8%	5.6%	6.4%
Change from one month ago			
Civilian Labor Force	300	10.2	611
Employment	300	3.5	251
Unemployment	-100	6.6	360
Unemployment rate	-0.1%	0.2%	0.3%
Change from one year ago			
Civilian Labor Force	1,800	78.5	2,185
Employment	1,800	66.8	1,251
Unemployment	-100	11.6	934
Unemployment rate	-0.2%	0.3%	0.6%
<i>Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.</i>			
<i>* La Crosse MSA Statistics include Houston County Minnesota</i>			

Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Area

June 2003	Buffalo	Crawford	Jackson	Juneau	Lacrosse	Monroe	Trempealeau	Vernon	Region	Non MSA*	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force**	7,730	10,760	12,570	11,260	65,290	21,790	16,520	14,900	160,810	95,520	3,164,050
Employed	7,390	10,170	12,080	10,250	62,560	20,690	15,670	14,220	153,030	90,460	2,982,430
Unemployed	340	590	490	1,010	2,720	1,100	840	680	7,780	5,060	181,620
Unemployment Rate	4.4%	5.5%	3.9%	9.0%	4.2%	5.1%	5.1%	4.6%	4.8%	5.3%	5.7%
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	5,100	8,100	8,900	9,300	69,900	18,600	13,900	8,800	142,700	72,800	2,828,900
Total Private	4,200	7,000	5,800	7,100	60,400	14,100	11,400	6,400	116,400	56,000	2,410,600
Goods Producing	500	1,700	1,900	2,500	12,000	4,200	5,800	1,200	29,700	17,800	648,700
Service Producing	4,700	6,400	7,000	6,800	57,900	14,400	8,100	7,600	113,000	55,100	2,180,200
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	170	280	1,100	280	2,900	600	310	260	5,900	3,000	129,400
Manufacturing	300	1,500	800	2,200	9,100	3,600	5,500	900	23,800	14,800	519,300
Trade	500	2,000	1,000	1,200	12,500	2,700	1,600	1,800	23,100	10,600	440,200
Transportation & Utilities	1,800	200	800	400	2,100	1,600	600	300	7,800	5,700	321,400
Financial Activities	160	210	240	250	3,600	610	350	390	5,800	2,200	158,700
Education and Health Services	600	1,200	600	1,200	12,300	1,700	1,100	1,500	20,100	7,800	361,200
Leisure & Hospitality	500	1,000	900	1,100	7,200	1,900	1,100	700	14,400	7,200	256,400
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	200	600	300	500	10,700	1,400	1,000	600	15,400	4,700	958,400
Total Government	990	1,170	3,130	2,220	9,450	4,510	2,450	2,390	26,300	16,900	418,300
Federal	180	70	60	230	450	2,260	140	120	3,500	3,050	28,600
State	30	220	470	570	2,160	250	40	50	3,780	1,620	95,300
Local	780	890	2,600	1,420	6,840	2,000	2,270	2,220	19,020	12,180	294,400
Change from one month ago	May 2003										
Civilian Labor Force**	100	430	480	330	800	600	420	570	3,700	2,900	87,500
Employed	50	380	430	200	300	400	310	470	2,600	2,200	62,000
Unemployed	40	50	50	130	400	200	110	100	1,100	700	25,500
Unemployment rate(%)	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	70	270	270	120	-100	250	200	230	1,400	1,400	30,800
Percent change NFWS from last month	1.4%	3.4%	3.2%	1.4%	-0.1%	1.3%	1.5%	2.7%	1.0%	2.0%	1.1%
Total Private	20	270	200	100	400	200	170	60	1,400	1,000	36,400
Goods Producing	30	80	100	0	200	100	130	10	600	400	9,200
Service Producing	50	190	200	100	-200	200	70	220	800	1,000	21,600
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	10	20	80	20	200	30	20	20	400	200	6,200
Manufacturing	20	60	0	0	0	20	110	-10	200	200	3,000
Trade	0	50	0	0	0	20	10	20	100	100	7,800
Transportation & Utilities	-20	0	10	-20	0	-50	10	0	-100	-100	5,600
Financial Activities	0	10	10	10	100	0	10	10	100	0	2,400
Education and Health Services	0	40	20	0	-200	10	10	0	-100	100	-2,000
Leisure & Hospitality	20	80	20	100	200	110	40	20	500	400	10,600
Svcs	0	20	0	0	100	70	-30	10	200	100	8,000
Total Government	50	0	120	50	-450	30	30	170	0	400	-5,600
Federal	0	0	0	10	0	70	0	0	100	100	-100
State	10	10	20	0	-450	10	10	10	-400	100	-6,900
Local	50	0	100	40	0	-50	20	150	300	300	1,400
Change from one year ago	June 2002										
Civilian Labor Force**	70	320	570	410	1,800	440	1,220	380	5,200	3,400	79,700
Employed	30	270	580	370	1,700	340	1,150	470	4,900	3,200	68,000
Unemployed	40	60	-10	30	100	100	80	-90	300	200	11,700
Unemployment rate(%)	0.4	0.4	-0.3	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.1	-0.8	0.0	0.0	0.2
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	110	80	290	170	900	20	850	180	2,600	1,700	5,500
Percent change NFWS from last year	2.2%	1.0%	3.3%	1.9%	1.3%	0.1%	6.5%	2.1%	1.8%	2.4%	0.2%
Total Private	80	30	100	200	800	500	600	100	2,400	1,600	600
Goods Producing	20	-250	0	-200	0	100	300	0	0	100	-22,600
Service Producing	90	330	200	300	900	0	500	200	2,600	1,600	28,200
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	20	10	40	-10	-100	0	-30	-30	-100	0	-8,200
Manufacturing	0	-260	0	-100	0	60	360	40	100	100	-14,500
Trade	-20	40	0	0	600	110	110	80	1,000	400	6,500
Transportation & Utilities	50	10	0	40	-100	80	30	20	100	200	3,200
Financial Activities	0	10	0	10	100	10	20	20	100	100	4,000
Education and Health Services	-10	60	0	100	200	80	40	20	400	300	2,200
Leisure & Hospitality	50	140	100	200	0	210	170	30	1,000	1,000	-500
Svcs	0	20	-100	0	100	-90	-60	-70	-200	-300	15,300
Total Government	30	50	180	-30	60	-430	230	70	100	100	4,900
Federal	-10	-10	0	-40	-80	-180	0	0	-300	-200	-1,600
State	0	0	20	-30	290	0	0	0	300	0	2,200
Local	30	60	160	30	-150	-250	230	80	200	300	4,400

* Seven counties, excluding La Crosse County ** Includes participants residing in area. *** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted.
Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2002

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/>

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